

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently amended): ~~The A method according to claim 13 of verifying a connection between a subscriber station and a network wherein a gateway resides intermediate the subscriber station and the network, the method comprising the steps of:~~

introducing a tester into the connection;

remotely instructing the tester to perform at least one connectivity test between the gateway and the network; and

generating an output reporting a result of the at least one connectivity test,

wherein the remote instructions originate from a verification host connected to the tester and the report is outputted to the verification host,

wherein the network is a proprietary network belonging to an internet service provider,

and

wherein the at least one connectivity test comprises "pinging" the tester from the host via the Internet.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): ~~The A method according to claim 13~~ of verifying a connection between a subscriber station and a network wherein a gateway resides intermediate the subscriber station and the network, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing a tester into the connection;

remotely instructing the tester to perform at least one connectivity test between the gateway and the network; and

generating an output reporting a result of the at least one connectivity test,

wherein the remote instructions originate from a verification host connected to the tester and the report is outputted to the verification host,

wherein the network is a proprietary network belonging to an internet service provider, and

wherein the report includes ping statistics delivered to the host.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): ~~The A method according to claim 12~~ of verifying a connection between a subscriber station and a network wherein a gateway resides intermediate the subscriber station and the network, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing a tester into the connection;

remotely instructing the tester to perform at least one connectivity test between the gateway and the network; and

generating an output reporting a result of the at least one connectivity test,

wherein the remote instructions originate from a verification host connected to the tester and the report is outputted to the verification host,

wherein the network is the Internet, and

wherein the verification host is connected to the tester via a virtual link through the Internet.

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 16 wherein the subscriber station has a dynamic IP address and further comprising the steps of, after the introducing step:

remotely providing the dynamic IP address to the tester via a DHCP server;

sending the dynamic IP address from the tester to the host via the Internet.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 16 wherein the subscriber station has a static IP address and further comprising the step of remotely providing the static IP address to the tester via the link.

Claim 20-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently amended): ~~The A system according to claim 28~~ for verifying a connection comprising:

a subscriber station;

a network connected to the subscriber station via a gateway, the gateway operable to translate communications between the subscriber station and the network;

a tester for connection into the network, the tester operable to receive remote instructions to perform at least one connectivity test over at least a portion of a connection spanning the subscriber station and the network; and,

a host connected to the tester for remotely instructing the tester to perform the at least one connectivity test and to receive reports thereof from the tester,

wherein the tester is further operable to be selectively connected to and disconnected from the network via a remote instruction from the host,

wherein the at least one connectivity test includes a metal test between the gateway and the subscriber station and wherein the report includes a result of the metal test, and

wherein the at least one connectivity test comprises "pinging" the tester from the host via the Internet.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): ~~The A system according to claim 29~~ for verifying a connection comprising:

a subscriber station;

a network connected to the subscriber station via a gateway, the gateway operable to translate communications between the subscriber station and the network;

a tester for connection into the network, the tester operable to receive remote instructions to perform at least one connectivity test over at least a portion of a connection spanning the subscriber station and the network; and,

a host connected to the tester for remotely instructing the tester to perform the at least one connectivity test and to receive reports thereof from the tester,

wherein the network is the Internet, and

wherein the report includes ping statistics delivered to the host.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): ~~The~~-A system ~~according to claim 28~~ for verifying a connection comprising:

a subscriber station;

a network connected to the subscriber station via a gateway, the gateway operable to translate communications between the subscriber station and the network;

a tester for connection into the network, the tester operable to receive remote instructions to perform at least one connectivity test over at least a portion of a connection spanning the subscriber station and the network; and,

a host connected to the tester for remotely instructing the tester to perform the at least one connectivity test and to receive reports thereof from the tester,

wherein the tester is further operable to be selectively connected to and disconnected from the network via a remote instruction from the host,

wherein the at least one connectivity test includes a metal test between the gateway and the subscriber station and wherein the report includes a result of the metal test, and

wherein the verification host is connected to the tester via a virtual link through the Internet.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): ~~The A system according to claim 28~~ for verifying a connection comprising:

a subscriber station;

a network connected to the subscriber station via a gateway, the gateway operable to translate communications between the subscriber station and the network;

a tester for connection into the network, the tester operable to receive remote instructions to perform at least one connectivity test over at least a portion of a connection spanning the subscriber station and the network;

a host connected to the tester for remotely instructing the tester to perform the at least one connectivity test and to receive reports thereof from the tester; and

~~further comprising~~ a DHCP server operable to assign an IP address to the subscriber station and further operable to assign an IP address to the tester when the tester is introduced into the connection,

wherein the tester is further operable to send the dynamic IP address from the tester to the host via the Internet<sub>1</sub>[[.]]

wherein the tester is further operable to be selectively connected to and disconnected from the network via a remote instruction from the host, and

wherein the at least one connectivity test includes a metal test between the gateway and the subscriber station and wherein the report includes a result of the metal test.

Claim 34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (Original): The system according to claim 33 wherein the subscriber station has a static IP address and wherein the host is further operable to providing the static IP address to the tester via the link.

Claim 36-45 (Canceled).